

## Message Text

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70

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ADP-00 INT-08 AID-20 EB-11 NSC-10 RSC-01

CIEP-02 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-08 OMB-01 CEA-02 CIAE-00

COME-00 FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 LAB-06

SIL-01 SAL-01 PA-03 PRS-01 USIA-12 L-03 SCEM-02 CG-00

DODE-00 PM-09 RSR-01 /172 W  
----- 003387

R 061515 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3629

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 3992

E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: ENRG, IN

SUBJ: BOMBAY HIGH OFFSHORE OIL EXPLORATION TO BEGIN IN JUNE

REF: A) TOKYO 4050, MAY 4, 1971; B) NEW DELHI 15960, DECEMBER  
19, 1970

FOR DEPTS STATE, INTERIOR (NAHAI & REINEMUND) AND COMMERCE  
(WESTLEY)

SUMMARY. THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA HAS TAKEN DELIVERY OF NEWLY-  
CONSTRUCTED MITSUBISHI/ OFFSHORE COMPANY INTERNATIONAL " MERCURY"  
MODEL OFFSHORE DRILL. SELF- PROPELLED UNIT CURRENTLY ENROUTE JAPAN  
TO INDIA. PETROLEUM MINISTRY WOULD HAVE DELAYED DRILLING FOR OIL  
AND GAS IN BOMBAY HIGH GEOLOGIC STRUCTURE UNTIL POST- MONSOON  
PERIOD.

HOWEVER, THE GOI'S DRILL CONTRACTOR, THE OFFSHORE COMPANY,  
HOUSTON, TEXAS, RECOMMENDS JUNE ( STORM PERIOD) STARTING DATE  
TO MAKE UP FOR TIME LOST WAITING INDIAN ACCEPTANCE OF UNIT IN JAPAN.  
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END SUMMARY.

1. DR. GOPAL RAMASWAMY, CHIEF, EXPLORATION AND DEVELOPMENT, MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, INFORMED MINERALS ATTACHE APRIL 5 THAT GOI OFFICIALLY TOOK DELIVERY OF \$15.4 MILLION "MERCURY" MODEL SELF- PROPELLED, OFFSHORE, DEEP WATER, DRILL PLATFORM IN TOKYO APRIL 1, 1973. LOAN WAS EXTENDED BY JAPANESE EXIM BANK OF MITSUBISHI AS PRIME CONTRACTOR FOR CONSTRUCTION. APRIL 30, 1971, GOI/ GOI AGREEMENT TERMS ARE 5.27 PERCENT INTEREST RATE WITH LOAN REPAYABLE IN TWENTY YEARS WITH FIVE- YEAR GRACE PERIOD ( REF A). THE OFFSHORE COMPANY INTERNATIONAL, HOUSTON, TEXAS, DESIGNED DRILL SHIP AND COLLABORATED WITH MITSUBISHI ENGINEERS THROUGHOUT CONSTRUCTION.

2. RAMASWAMY WAS PRINCIPAL TECHNICAL ADVISOR ON GOI TEAM THAT ACCEPTED DRILL APRIL 1. HE SAID HE AND OTHER MEMBERS OF TEAM ARE " PERFECTLY SATISFIED" WITH ALL INSTALLED EQUIPMENT AND THAT MINOR DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED DURING LATE 1972 SEA TRIALS HAVE BEEN CORRECTED FULLY ( ORIGINALLY- SCHEDULED DELIVERY DATE: JANUARY 1, 1973).

3. THE SELF- CONTAINED, JACK- UP, DRILL PLATFORM/ SHIP " SAGAR SAMRAT" ( OCEAN KING), REPORTEDLY DEPARTED TOKYO FOR BOMBAY APRIL 4, UNDER SUPERVISION OFFSHORE COMPANY TECHNICIANS. ( ESTIMATED DATE ARRIVAL BOMBAY: MAY 10). THE OFFSHORE COMPANY WILL CONTINUE TO WORK WITH GOI IN CAPACITY OF DRILL CONTRACTOR UNDER OPEN- END " OWNER- ASSISTED" AGREEMENT TO INITIATE OFFSHORE DRILLING OPERATING, PROVIDE CONSULTING SERVICES, TRAIN INDIAN TECHNICIANS, AND ESTABLISH VIABLE SUPPLY NETWORK. RAMASWAMY REITERATED EARLIER STATEMENT ( REF B) THAT OFFSHORE COMPANY MAY BE REQUIRED IN VARIOUS CAPACITIES FOR POSSIBLY FIVE YEARS OR MORE AFTER DRILLING BEGINS.

4. ACCORDING RAMASWAMY, OFFSHORE COMPANY OFFICIALS HAVE STATED THEY ARE CONFIDENT MERCURY DRILL ( SAGAR SAMRAT) WILL SAFELY WITHSTAND INDIA' S WEST COAST MAY - SEPTEMBER MONSOON STORMS AND ARE NOW RECOMMENDING JUNE 1973 START OF DRILLING TO MAKE UP FOR TIME LOST WAITING INDIAN ACCEPTANCE OF UNIT IN JAPAN. ORIGINALLY, FIRST DRILLING WAS TO HAVE BEEN UNDERTAKEN DURING GOOD WEATHER PERIOD JANUARY - MAY 1973, AND, FOLLOWING DELAY, PETROLEUM MINISTRY WOULD HAVE WAITED UNTIL POST- MONSOON PERIOD BEGINNING IN OCTOBER. RAMASWAMY SAID HE

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APPROVED JUNE STARTING DATE WITH FIRST HOLE ( H-1-1) TO BE LOCATED  
IN BOMBAY HIGH GEOLOGIC STRUCTURE AT COORDINATES: 19 10' N;  
72 14' E, APPROXIMATELY 39 MILES NORTHWEST BOMBAY. WATER DEPTH  
AT HOLE SITE: 110 FEET. ESTIMATED DEPTH OF HOLE: 7,200 FEET. UNIT  
IS DESIGNED TO MAINTAIN DRILLING RATE ABOUT 145 FEET PER 24- HOUR  
DRILLING DAY, OR OVER 4,000 FEET PER MONTH IN CONDITIONS  
ANTICIPATED BOMBAY HIGH AND GULF OF CAMBAY CONTINENTAL  
SHELF REGION.

DECONTROL APRIL 6, 1974.  
MOYNIHAN

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\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 06 APR 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** elyme  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1973NEWDE03992  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** n/a  
**Errors:** n/a  
**Film Number:** n/a  
**From:** NEW DELHI  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1973/newtext/t19730435/aaahtgd.tel  
**Line Count:** 130  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE  
**Office:** ACTION NEA  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 73 TOKYO 4050, MAY 4, 1971, 73 NEW DELHI 15960, DECEMBER, 19  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** elyme  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 05 NOV 2001  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <05-Nov-2001 by willialc>; APPROVED <23-Nov-2001 by elyme>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** <DBA CORRECTED> gwr 971203  
**Subject:** BOMBAY HIGH OFFSHORE OIL EXPLORATION TO BEGIN IN JUNE  
**TAGS:** ENRG, IN  
**To:** BOMBAY  
CALCUTTA  
MADRAS  
NEA  
SECSTATE WASHDC  
TOKYO  
**Type:** TE

**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005